

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 AMMAN 02229 071432Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 EUR-12 IO-13 SSM-03
/076 W

-----004943 071442Z /43

O R 071346Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5344
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 8477

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 2229

JERUSALEM FOR USDEL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, JO, US, XF
SUBJECT: KING'S COMMENTS TO AUSTRIAN PRESS

1. IN THE LAST FEW HOURS WE HAVE RECEIVED WORD
INDIRECTLY THAT KING IN COMMENTS TO AUSTRIAN
PRESS DELEGATION LAST EVENING APPEARED TO BE
SOMEWHAT IRRITATED OVER HIS DIALOGUE WITH THE
U.S. HE APPARENTLY RESPONDED TO A QUESTION
ABOUT WHETHER THERE WAS UNUSUAL U.S. OR WESTERN
PRESSURE ON JORDAN TO JOIN THE NEGOTIATIONS.
HIS RESPONSE IN EFFECT WAS THAT THE U.S. AND OTHERS
SHOULD CONVINCE ISRAEL TO CHANGE ITS POSITION, NOT
PUT PRESSURE ON JORDAN. WE HAVE HAD THE ABOVE
SECOND AND THRID HAND AND THEREFORE CANNOT REALLY
CONFIRM IT.

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2. NEVERTHELESS, I CALLED COURT CHIEF SHARAF ON
THE TELEPHONE AND TOLD HIM IN GENERAL TERMS WE HAD
HEARD OF THESE REPORTS (THEY APPARENTLY WERE ALSO
HEARD ON ISRAELI RADIO THIS MORNING). HE TOLD
ME HE HAD NOT ATTENDED KING'S PRESS CONFERENCE,
BUT THAT KING HAD BRIEFED HIM. HE HAD NO
INDICATION ANYTHING OF THAT SORT HAD BEEN SAID.

JORDAN DID NOT PLAN TO PUT OUT ANY TEXT UNLESS IT SEEMED AS IF KING'S REMARKS WERE BEING DISTORTED BY THE AUSTRIAN PRESS REPORTS THEMSELVES. IN ADDITION, HE SAID THAT KING WAS COMPLETELY SATISFIED WITH HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH ATHERTON, THAT JORDAN FULLY UNDERSTOOD THE U.S. POSITION AND DID NOT FEEL IT WAS BEING PRESSED BY THE UNITED STATES. HE ALSO BELIEVED THAT THE U.S. COMPLETELY UNDERSTOOD JORDAN'S POSITION AND THAT THERE WAS NO INTENTION OF CUTTING OFF OR NOT CONTINUING WITH A DIALOGUE WITH THE UNITED STATES. IN CASE WE WERE CONCERNED ABOUT FURTHER ATHERTON VISITS, ATHERTON WAS WELCOME IN AMMAN ANY TIME, AND FOR AS MANY TIMES AS HE WISHED TO COME HERE.

3. I THANKED SHARAF FOR THE INFORMATION AND SAID THAT IF THER WERE ANY POINTS WHICH CAME TO LIGHT SUBSEQUENTLY, AS HE HAD INVITED ME TO DO DURING OUR CONVERSATION, I WOULD BRING THEM TO HIS ATTENTION. I TOLD HIM ALSO I WOULD BE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING KING AS SOON AS AUSTRIAN STATE VISIT WAS OVER.
PICKERING

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Litigation History:
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Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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TAGS: PGOV, JO, US, XF, AU, (HUSSEIN I)
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